

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office

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In Reply To:

5000/9210(923)P

August 20, 2004

EMAIL TRANSMISSION - 08/20/04

Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2004-089

Expires: 9/30/05

To: Field Managers

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources

Subject: Field Office Identification and Reporting of Projects Funded by Sources Other than the National Fire Plan (28XX) for FY 2004 **DD: 08/27/04**

Program Response Requested From: Rangeland Management, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Control, Hazardous Fuel Management, Watershed Management, Wildlife Management, T & E Species Management, Forest and Woodland Management, Recreation Management, Oil & Gas Management

This data call is in support of Washington Office (WO) Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2004-223. That memorandum directs each state to review and submit their FY 2004 projects that support the National Fire Plan efforts but were funded by subactivities other than 28XX.

Please review all of your FY 2004 completed and expected to be completed by the end of FY 2004 vegetation treatment projects. Identify those projects meeting the Business Rules for reporting of Non-National Fire Plan funded projects on the attached spreadsheet. *Projects already in NFPORS meeting these criteria are not to be reported on this spreadsheet.* A response is required for all fields in the spreadsheet.

This data call is across all programs that have treated or changed existing vegetative cover to meet project objectives. Projects such as removing lower vegetation in or around camping areas to reduce fire hazards or projects removing or modifying vegetation around oil pads to reduce fire hazards are some examples in addition to the examples provided in the WO instruction memorandum.

Complete the electronic spreadsheet and return it to Bill Hensley by COB **August 27, 2004**. If you have any questions pertaining to your submission, please contact Bill Hensley at 406-896-5042.

Signed by: Chun C. Wong, Acting

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

3 Attachments

1-WO IM No. 2004-223, Reporting National Fire Plan Accomplishments Funded by Sources Other Than the National Fire Plan (3 pp)

2-Business Rules and Data Requirements (1 p)

3-Identifying Projects not Funded by NFP 28XX Funds (1 Excel Spreadsheet)

Distribution

SOMT - 1

Asst. FM Glasgow - 1

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

August 10, 2004

In Reply Refer To:
5000 (WO-200) I
9210 (FA-630)

EMS TRANSMISSION 08/10/2004
Instruction Memorandum No. 2004-223
Expires: 09/30/2005

To: State Directors

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning
Director, Fire and Aviation

Subject: Reporting National Fire Plan Accomplishments Funded by Sources Other Than the National
Fire Plan DD: 08/26/2004

Program Areas: Forest and Woodland Management, Range Management, Wildlife Management, T&E
Species Management, Watershed Management, Weed and Invasive Species Control.

Purposes: This Instruction Memorandum requests information on activities undertaken during Fiscal Year 2004 that were accomplished using funding from sources other than the National Fire Plan that have a primary or secondary benefit of reducing wildfire risk or otherwise modify future fire behavior to aid in wildfire containment.

Policy/Action: Each State Office shall provide the information concerning activities that had a benefit of reducing wildfire risk or otherwise modified fire behavior to aid in wildfire containment but were accomplished with funds other than those provided under the National Fire Plan (28XX) by completing the attached spreadsheet (Attachment 1). The business rules contained in Attachment 2 should be used in completing this spreadsheet.

Timeframe: Completed spreadsheets are to be returned to the Office of Fire and Aviation by COB August 26, 2004 by sending them to Rick Tholen, Forest Health Program Manager at rick_tholen@nifc.blm.gov.

Background: The Department recognizes that land management agencies have made significant strides in reducing hazardous fuels using funds provided through the National Fire Plan (NFP). It also recognizes that many non-NFP funded projects achieve NFP goals as primary or secondary benefits yet they remain uncounted in any systematic way. These acres comprise a significant aspect of our overall efforts to reduce the risk of wildland fire and improve the health

of our forests, woodlands, and rangelands but they have not been tallied in any systematic way to date. The Department is committed to counting them in the very near term.

An initial query conducted during the summer of 2003 indicated that projects in the following program areas may have a primary or secondary benefit of achieving NFP goals:

- Forest Management
- Forest Health/Forest Pest Management
- Range, Soil, Water & Air Management
- Weeds/Invasive Species Management
- Wildlife Habitat Management
- T&E Species Habitat Management

The ultimate test as to whether a non-NFP funded project qualifies to be counted as helping achieve the goals of the NFP is did it alter plant composition and structure or modify fuels in a way that reduces fire behavior and resistance to control

For example, forest management activities that modify forest vegetation to a condition that reduces the risk posed by wildfire either to the stand, the watershed, or to an adjacent community or community infrastructure would be counted while forest management projects not having such a result should not be included. Management actions moving plant composition and structure closer to that which existed under the natural fire regime would also count.

Other examples of projects that may have a secondary benefit to achieving NFP goals include those that control the spread of weeds and invasive exotic species, such as cheatgrass, tamarisk, or star thistle, or those that restore native plant communities for the purpose of improving range condition or wildlife habitat.

Impact on Budget: Implementing this request has minimal budget implications.

Coordination: This IM was coordinated with the Office of Fire and Aviation, Planning and Resources (FA-620), Rangeland, Soil, Water, Air (WO-220), Fish, Wildlife and Botany (WO-230), Forest and Woodland Management (WO-270), and the DOI Office of Wildland Fire Coordination.

Contact: Additional information is available by contacting Rick Tholen at (208) 387-5321, or Roy Johnson at (208) 387-5163.

Signed by:
Edward Shepard
Assistant Director
Renewable Resources and Planning

Authenticated by:
Barbara J. Brown
Policy & Records Group, WO-560

Signed by:
Larry Hamilton
Director
Fire and Aviation

2 Attachments:

- 1 - FY 04 Non-NFP_Acres_Report (1 p)
- 2 – Business Rules for Reporting Non-NFP FY04 Accomplishments (1 p)

***Business Rules and Data Requirements for Reporting FY04 National Fire Plan
Accomplishments from Non-National Fire Plan Funded Projects***

Business Rules: The following business rules for reporting Non-NFP Activity data apply in FY 2004:

- 1) Only include acres that are not already reported in NFPORS.
- 2) Only report acres associated with treatment of activity fuels if those fuels were contributing to the wildfire risk prior to the activity. For example, a timber sale permit that removes large trees with no thinning of the understory may not alter vegetation composition and structure and have no influence on fire behavior and resistance to control. Therefore, acres associated with the permit would not be reported.
- 3) For acres with multiple treatment types occurring within the fiscal year, count each treatment as a separate acre accomplishment for that fiscal year.
- 4) Only report acres actually treated, not acres affected by the treatment, e.g. a watershed.

Data Requirements: The following data is required:

- 5) Agency
- 6) State
- 7) Reporting Unit
- 8) Treatment Type
- 9) WUI/Non-WUI
- 10) Primary Objective
- 11) Acres Accomplished

Reporting Requirements: Report all acres accomplished using funding from sources other than the National Fire Plan that have a primary or secondary benefit of reducing wildfire risk or otherwise modify future fire behavior to aid in wildfire containment. This objective should have been identified in the project planning documents or at a minimum the benefits of the project toward controlling wildfire or improving wildfire effects on the environment should be accounted for in the environmental consequences discussion of the project NEPA documentation.